IN THE CLAIMS

Please add claims 24 through 26 as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A fingerprint recognizing display system comprising:

a monitor having a screen and a front cover surrounding said screen;

a fingerprint recognizing module included with said monitor, said fingerprint recognizing module including a fingerprint image recognizing unit disposed on a surface of said front cover, wherein a user desiring access to said fingerprint recognizing display system touches said fingerprint image recognizing unit; and

a computer main body including a fingerprint data base and a fingerprint verifying unit, wherein said fingerprint verifying unit compares fingerprint data transmitted from said fingerprint recognizing module to registered fingerprint data stored in said fingerprint data base and permits said user access to programs stored in said fingerprint recognizing display system when it is determined that the fingerprint of said user matches fingerprint data stored in said fingerprint data base, said computer main body comprising:

a kernel of an operating system of said computer main body for determining whether said fingerprint data base has been established in said computer main body; and

said kernel recognizing that said fingerprint recognizing display system has been activated and performing a fingerprint registration routine when it is determined that said fingerprint data base has not been established, and determining whether said monitor is a fingerprint recognizing monitor when it is

determined that said fingerprint data base has been established.

2. (Original) The fingerprint recognizing display system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said fingerprint image recognizing unit is integrally formed with a power switch disposed on the surface of said front cover.

3. (Original) The fingerprint recognizing display system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said fingerprint recognizing module also includes:

a converter converting analog fingerprint data input from the fingerprint image recognizing unit to digital fingerprint data, and

a first communication unit transmitting the digital fingerprint data to a second communication unit in the computer main body.

4. (Original) The fingerprint recognizing display system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said monitor includes a microprocessor communicating with a video card in said computer main body.

5. (Original) The fingerprint recognizing display system as set forth in claim 4, wherein said fingerprint recognizing module also includes:

a converter converting analog fingerprint data input from the fingerprint image recognizing unit to digital fingerprint data, and

said microprocessor transmits the digital fingerprint data to a communication unit

in the computer main body.

6. (Previously Presented) The fingerprint recognizing display system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said fingerprint verifying unit includes:

a decoding unit for decoding the registered fingerprint data read from said fingerprint data base;

an encoding unit for encoding fingerprint data for storage into said fingerprint data base;

a distinctive feature detecting unit for detecting a distinctive feature of a fingerprint corresponding to the fingerprint data transmitted from said monitor;

a fingerprint matching/recording unit for receiving decoded fingerprint data from said decoding unit and also for providing fingerprint data to said encoding unit, said fingerprint matching/recording unit comparing decoded fingerprint data received from said decoding unit to said distinctive feature received from said distinctive feature detecting unit and also for outputting said distinctive feature received from said distinctive feature detecting unit to said encoding unit to be stored as the registered fingerprint data in said fingerprint data base; and

a recognizing unit outputting a "pass" signal or a "fail" signal in response to a comparison result output from said fingerprint matching/recording unit.

7. (Previously Presented) The fingerprint recognizing display system as set forth in claim 3, wherein said fingerprint verifying unit includes:

a decoding unit for decoding the registered fingerprint data read from said fingerprint data base;

an encoding unit for encoding fingerprint data for storage into said fingerprint data base;

a distinctive feature detecting unit for detecting a distinctive feature of a fingerprint corresponding to the fingerprint data transmitted from said first communication unit to said second communication unit;

a fingerprint matching/recording unit for receiving decoded fingerprint data from said decoding unit and also for providing fingerprint data to said encoding unit, said fingerprint matching/recording unit comparing decoded fingerprint data received from said decoding unit to said distinctive feature received from said distinctive feature detecting unit and also for outputting said distinctive feature received from said distinctive feature detecting unit to said encoding unit to be stored as the registered fingerprint data in said fingerprint data base; and

a recognizing unit outputting a "pass" signal or a "fail" signal in response to a comparison result output from said fingerprint matching/recording unit.

8. (Previously Presented) The fingerprint recognizing display system as set forth in claim 5, wherein said fingerprint verifying unit includes:

a decoding unit for decoding the registered fingerprint data read from said fingerprint data base;

an encoding unit for encoding fingerprint data for storage into said fingerprint data

base;

a distinctive feature detecting unit for detecting a distinctive feature of a fingerprint corresponding to the fingerprint data transmitted from said microprocessor to said communication unit;

a fingerprint matching/recording unit for receiving decoded fingerprint data from said decoding unit and also for providing fingerprint data to said encoding unit, said fingerprint matching/recording unit comparing decoded fingerprint data received from said decoding unit to said distinctive feature received from said distinctive feature detecting unit and also for outputting said distinctive feature received from said distinctive feature detecting unit to said encoding unit to be stored as the registered fingerprint data in said fingerprint data base; and

a recognizing unit outputting a "pass" signal or a "fail" signal in response to a comparison result output from said fingerprint matching/recording unit.

9. (Original) The fingerprint recognizing display system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said monitor comprises a cathode ray tube display apparatus or a liquid crystal display apparatus.

Claims 10 and 11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) A method of recognizing a fingerprint to enable a user to operate a computer system including a monitor and a computer main body, said method

being embodied in an operating system kernel mode and comprising the steps of:

determining whether a fingerprint data base has been established in said computer main body;

performing a fingerprint registration routine when it is determined that said fingerprint data base has not been established,

determining whether said monitor is a fingerprint recognizing monitor when it is determined that said fingerprint data base has been established;

detecting a fingerprint of the user when said user touches a portion of a front cover surrounding a display screen of said monitor of said computer system;

transmitting fingerprint data corresponding to said fingerprint of said user, when detected, from said monitor to said computer main body of said computer system;

comparing the fingerprint data transmitted from said monitor to registered fingerprint data output from said fingerprint data base, when said fingerprint data base has been established in said computer main body; and

enabling said computer system to be operated by said user when said comparing step indicates that there is a match between the fingerprint data transmitted from said monitor and the registered fingerprint data output from said fingerprint data base, or disabling said computer system to prevent operation by said user when said comparing step indicates that there is not a match between the fingerprint data transmitted from said monitor and the registered fingerprint data output from said fingerprint data base.

13. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 12, further

comprising steps of:

determining that said monitor is operating in an abnormal status and preventing said computer system from being operated when it is determined that said monitor is not a fingerprint recognizing monitor, or performing said step of detecting a fingerprint when it is determined that said monitor is a fingerprint recognizing monitor.

Claim 14. (Canceled)

15. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 13, further comprising steps of:

determining whether a keyboard or a mouse of said computer system is operated by said user during operation of a screen protection routine of said computer system; and

continuing to run a screen saver program when it is determined that neither said keyboard nor said mouse have been operated, or performing said step of determining whether said monitor is a fingerprint recognizing monitor when it is determined that one of said keyboard or said mouse have been operated.

16. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 15, further comprising a step of ending said screen protection routine when said comparing step indicates that there is a match between the fingerprint data transmitted from said monitor and the registered fingerprint data output from said fingerprint data base, and then performing said step of enabling said computer system to be operated by said user.

17. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 12, wherein said comparing step includes steps of:

checking said fingerprint data transmitted from said monitor and detecting distinctive features thereof;

determining whether the detected distinctive features are of good quality; and

outputting an error message when it is determined that the detected distinctive features are not of good quality and returning to said step of detecting a fingerprint of the user, or performing said comparing step when it is determined that the detected distinctive features are of good quality.

18. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 13, further comprising steps of:

determining whether a file stored in said computer system is enabled to be encoded or decoded during operation of a file encoding/decoding routine of said computer system;

outputting an message indicating said file can not be encoded or decoded when it is determined said file is not enabled to be encoded or decoded;

performing said step of determining whether said monitor is a fingerprint recognizing monitor when it is determined said file is enabled to be encoded or decoded; and

permitting said user to encode or decode said file when said comparing step indicates that there is a match between the fingerprint data transmitted from said monitor

and the registered fingerprint data output from said fingerprint data base.

19. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 12, wherein said fingerprint registration routine comprises the steps of:

detecting a fingerprint of a manager when said manager touches the portion of the front cover of said monitor of said computer system;

transmitting fingerprint data corresponding to said fingerprint of said manager, when detected, from said monitor to said computer main body of said computer system;

comparing the fingerprint data transmitted from said monitor to registered fingerprint data output from a fingerprint data base included in said computer main body; and

permitting said manager to operate a fingerprint managing and registering program when said comparing step indicates that there is a match between the fingerprint data transmitted from said monitor and the registered fingerprint data output from said fingerprint data base, or disabling said computer system to prevent operation by said manager when said comparing step indicates that there is not a match between the fingerprint data transmitted from said monitor and the registered fingerprint data output from said fingerprint data base.

20. (Previously Presented) A method of recognizing a fingerprint to enable a user to operate a computer system including a monitor and a computer main body, said method being embodied in a kernel of an operating system of said computer main body

and comprising the steps of:

determining whether a fingerprint data base has been established in said computer main body;

performing a fingerprint registration routine when it is determined that said fingerprint data base has not been established; and

determining whether said monitor is a fingerprint recognizing monitor when it is determined that said fingerprint data base has been established.

21. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 20, wherein said fingerprint registration routine comprises the steps of:

detecting a fingerprint of a manager when said manager touches a portion of a front cover of said monitor of said computer system;

transmitting fingerprint data corresponding to said fingerprint of said manager, when detected, from said monitor to said computer main body of said computer system;

comparing the fingerprint data transmitted from said monitor to registered fingerprint data output from a fingerprint data base included in said computer main body; and

permitting said manager to operate a fingerprint managing and registering program when said comparing step indicates that there is a match between the fingerprint data transmitted from said monitor and the registered fingerprint data output from said fingerprint data base, or disabling said computer system to prevent operation by said

manager when said comparing step indicates that there is not a match between the fingerprint data transmitted from said monitor and the registered fingerprint data output from said fingerprint data base.

22. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 20, further comprising steps of:

detecting a fingerprint of the user when said user touches a portion of a front cover surrounding a display screen of said monitor of said computer system;

transmitting fingerprint data corresponding to said fingerprint of said user, when detected, from said monitor to said computer main body of said computer system;

comparing the fingerprint data transmitted from said monitor to registered fingerprint data output from said fingerprint data base, when said fingerprint data base has been established in said computer main body; and

enabling said computer system to be operated by said user when said comparing step indicates that there is a match between the fingerprint data transmitted from said monitor and the registered fingerprint data output from said fingerprint data base, or disabling said computer system to prevent operation by said user when said comparing step indicates that there is not a match between the fingerprint data transmitted from said monitor and the registered fingerprint data output from said fingerprint data base.

23. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 20, further comprising steps of:

determining that said monitor is operating in an abnormal status and preventing said computer system from being operated when it is determined that said monitor is not a fingerprint recognizing monitor, or performing said step of detecting a fingerprint when it is determined that said monitor is a fingerprint recognizing monitor.

24. (New) An information device recognizing a fingerprint, the information device comprising:

a fingerprint data base storing registered fingerprint data;

a fingerprint verifying unit comparing fingerprint data transmitted from an external device to the fingerprint verifying unit; and

a kernel of an operating system of the information device permitting access to a program stored in the information device when the fingerprint verifying unit determines that transmitted fingerprint data match the registered fingerprint data.

25. (New) An information device recognizing a fingerprint, the information device comprising:

a fingerprint data base storing registered fingerprint data;

a kernel of an operating system of the information device; and

a fingerprint verifying unit comparing fingerprint data transmitted from an external device to the fingerprint verifying unit and controlling the kernel to execute a program stored in the information device when the fingerprint verifying unit determines that the transmitted fingerprint data match the registered fingerprint data.

26. (New) An information device recognizing a fingerprint, the information device comprising:

a fingerprint data base storing registered fingerprint data;

a fingerprint verifying unit comparing fingerprint data transmitted from an external device to the fingerprint verifying unit; and

a kernel of an operating system of the information device permitting access to electronic commerce through the information device when the fingerprint verifying device determines that the transmitted fingerprint data match the registered fingerprint data.